AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is supporting research and development on various herbal plants. Three National Gene Banks have been set up at Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Trivandrum, National Botanical Plant Genetic Resource Institute, New Delhi and Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow to conserve the germplasm of medicinal and aromatic plants which are threatened/rare/endangered and are extensively used in traditional system of medicine. Plants which are commercially important and where significant R&D leads have been obtained for future development of drugs have also been studied.

(c) Efforts are continuing for improvement of medicinal and aromatic plants through conventional breeding as well as with modern tools of biotechnology. To improve and structurally modify natural plant products for efficient biological activity and to refine and develop processing technology for industrially important secondary metabolotes, a number of research projects have been supported. Scientists at National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi have isolated fractions with immunomodulatory properties from Pepper with anti-tumour properties. At CIMAP, Lucknow 250 mutants of Catharanthus roseus have been isolated. A new variety 'NIRMAL' has been developed. A hairy root bank of this and several other species has been established. Promising genotypes have been identified in Duboisia myoporoides which to tolerate heat stress and PH beyond 8.5. An elite genotype of Glycyrrhiza glabra, 'Mishree', has been released for commercial exploitation.

Reinstatement of Parmanu Vidyut Karmachari Unionists

676. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum dated the 2nd September, 1996 from Parmanu Vidyut Karmachari Union, Ravatbhata, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Union has requested for reinstatement of the dismissed Trade Union Activists who were dismissed as early as two decades ago;

(c) whether Government propose to review their cases in view of the fact that they were dismissed for Trade Union Activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government do not propose to review the decision to dismiss these two employees as the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also upheld the same.

Restoration of Commuted Pension

677. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commuted portion of the pension of Central Government employees is restored after 15 years, but in Punjab and Haryana the commuted portion is restored after 12 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the way inflation is rising, there is a need for restoration of the commuted pension after 10 years; and